

REMARKS

Dealing with preliminary matters first, the Examiner objected to the drawings on two grounds. First, the Examiner contends that the drawings do not show “a circuit unit including a second connector adapted to be mounted onto a box body” as required by claim 1. In response, Applicant has provided replacement Figure 1, showing the second connector associated with the circuit unit. The Examiner has also requested Figures 10-13 to be labeled “PRIOR ART”. Applicant has labeled Figures 10-13 PRIOR ART, as the Examiner required.

In paragraph number 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-6 as containing a number of informalities. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome these objections. However, with respect to the objection to claim 3, Applicant respectfully traverses this objection. In particular, contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, a guide rib 28 is formed on the wall portion 20 of the box body 12, as shown in Figure 2. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-2 and 6 are presently amended. No new matter is presented.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected on prior art grounds. In particular, claims 1-4 stand rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Higashida, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,537,105).¹ In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 6 under § 103 as being unpatentable over Higashida, et al. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

¹ In view of the publication date of April 25, 2002, this reference is actually prior art under § 102(b).

Claim 1 recites an electrical connection box comprising, *inter alia*, a box body; a provisionally-attaching portion provided on the box body for provisionally attaching a first connector, connected to a wire harness, to the box body, the first connector being disposed in a receiving space; and a circuit unit including a second connector adapted to be mounted on the box body. Claim 1 further requires that when the circuit unit is mounted to the box body, the first connector is detached from the provisionally-attaching portion and is connected to the second connector and the circuit unit replaces the first connector in the receiving space.

Applicant submits that Higadisha et al. fails to anticipate all the features of claim 1. For instance, Higashida, et al. relates to an electric connection box which includes a box body 12, a provisionally-attaching portion 27 for provisionally attaching a first connector 33 (*See*, Fig. 5) to the box body, and a circuit unit 24 which includes a second connector which is adapted to be mounted to the box body. However, as shown in Figures 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B of Higashida, et al., the control unit 21 is received in a space which is *separate* from the space defined by the dummy connector housing 12 which the harness connector 22 is received in the provisional position. *See Higadisha, et al.* at col. 7, lines 31-62 and col. 8, line 11-18.

In contrast, the control unit 24 of the present application is received in the *same space* as the first connector when it is held in the provisionally attached position. For instance, with reference to Figure 1, the provisionally-attaching portion 27 is formed on a wall portion 20 of the box body forming a receiving space for receiving the control unit 14. Further, when the control unit is mounted on the box body, the first connector 33 is detached from the provisionally-attaching portion 27 and the control unit *replaces* the first connector in the same receiving space.

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See e.g., Specification at page 12. Clearly, Higadisha et al. fails to teach an electrical connection box as defined by claim 1, which requires a provisionally-attaching portion provided on the box body for provisionally attaching a first connector which is disposed in a receiving space and the first connector is detached from the provisionally-attaching portion and is connected to the second connector of the circuit unit which *replaces* the first connector *in the receiving space* when the circuit unit is mounted to the box body. Thus, *at least* for the foregoing reasons, Higadisha et al. fails to anticipate all the limitations of claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is requested. Further, Applicant submits that claims 2-5 are allowable at least by virtue of depending from claim 1, and allowance of claims 2-5 is therefore requested.

With respect to claim 6, which defines a method for assembling an electric connection box, Applicant submits that claim 6 is allowable for similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. For instance, Higadisha et al. provides no teaching for at least provisionally attaching a first connector to a provisionally-attaching portion on the box body where the first connector is received in the receiving space, as claimed, and the operation of detaching the first connector from the provisionally-attaching portion and mounting a circuit unit, including a second connection, in the receiving space of the box body. Accordingly, allowance of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

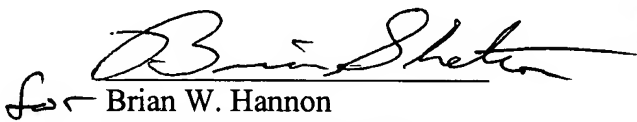
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Date: August 10, 2005

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Three (3) sheets Replacement Drawings

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)